

nations, but to the young and vigorous. For forty years he led Israel thro the wilderness until the younger generation could be trained for the duties of conquest and government. These closing years of the twentieth century are crowded with momentous events. The next decades to come promise to be even more so. Never were the forces of evil so thoroughly organized and never were the doors of opportunity so wide open before the church. Some Elijah, some Peter the hermit is needed to arouse Christendom to a greater earnestness. The young people are in training. One after another they have taken up the rallying cries of various reforms. Christian unity, good citizenship, missionary extension, holy living, systematic giving, and more consecrated service have in turn been agitated among their ranks and the standards have been raised all along the line. Let this rally day be observed by the societies of the Brethren church in common with the thousands of societies in other churches, by special songs and talks and plans. The last meeting of each month is consecration meeting. At this roll-call let there be a more fervent pledging to the work before us than ever before.

## SCRIPTURE HELP

- 1 The kingdom must war with evil, Matt. 10: 34-37; I Tim. 6: 12.
- 2 All must take sides, Matt. 6: 24.
- 3 The captain, Heb. 2: 10.
- 4 The issue, Eph. 6: 12.
- 5 The means, Rom. 12: 21.
- 6 The banner song of songs, 2: 4.
- 7 No compromise, Isa. 57: 14.
- 8 No furloughs, Matt. 10: 22.
- 9 A select army, I Pet. 2: 9.
- 10 The weapons, II Cor. 10: 4; Rom. 6: 13.
- 11 The confidence, I Cor. 9: 26.
- 12 Reward, Rev. 21: 7.

## OPEN PARLIAMENT

- 1 Why should all Christians co-operate in the Lord's work? How far should co-operation go?
- 2 Why do we need denominational organizations?
- 3 In what ways is the young people's movement like an army?
- 4 What work has the army of the young people to do for unity?
- 5 What for missions?
- 6 What for Christian culture and education?
- 7 What for Christian citizenship?
- 8 What for systematic and proportionate giving?
- 9 What for more holy living?
- 10 What for soul-winning?
- 11 What for the future work of the church?
- 12 Discuss plans for increasing the size and efficiency of God's army.

These questions and the references above should not be passed over carelessly but should be commented upon by all who will—if by no one else then by the pastor or leader.

C. F. YODER.

## A Larger Prayer

At first I prayed for Light;  
Could I but see the way,  
How gladly, swiftly would I walk  
To everlasting day.

And next I prayed for Strength,  
That I might tread the road  
With firm, unfaltering feet, and win  
The heaven's serene abode.

And then I asked for Faith;  
Could I but trust my God,  
I'd live enfolded in His peace,  
Tho foes were all abroad.

But now I asked for Love;  
Deep love to God and man;  
A living love that will not fail,  
However dark His plan.

And Light and Strength and Faith  
Are opening everywhere!  
God only waited for me till  
I prayed the larger prayer.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

*The Young People's Society and Missions:*

The Young People's Society is essentially a missionary society. The motive and purpose of the society are missions. Mission work is not only something that the society *may do*, if it so chooses, but something that it *must do*, if it would be true to the motive and purpose of the society. Every member, therefore, who is in sympathy with the motive and purpose of the society is a missionary. A person cannot conscientiously be a member of the society and not be a missionary. I hold this to be true, because (1) conscientious members make a daily study of the Bible, the great missionary book of the world. The spirit of the Bible is the missionary spirit; and no person can read this book constantly without coming to possess this spirit, and the possessor of this spirit will be actively engaged in mission work. The great missionaries of the church have been constant students of the scriptures. A revival of interest in missions has always been preceded by a revival of Bible study. What the churches need today is a *Bible-reading membership*. This will give the church not only a membership that is loyal to its teachings, but will give to the church such a spirit of missionary enterprise and such a body of workers that the church could soon take the stand upon the hill-top, and chant to God, "The victory is won, for the earth is full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waves cover the sea."

The Young People's Society is essentially missionary, because (2) of its definition of Christianity. To members of this society Christianity means *service*. "Trusting in God for strength I promise Him that I will do whatever He would have me do." Various definitions of Christianity obtain in various minds and with various results. Many look upon Christianity as a life insurance company, and embrace it as a good place to die in; others look upon it as a resting place and so seek it as a church home; and many of these latter look upon this home much as a dog looks upon his kennel—a place in which to *sleep* and *growl*; yet others seek Christianity because to them it means a thro ticket to heaven, with no stops and no inconveniences by the way, sure to get it on time; and they prefer to ride on a *free pass* and in the *sleeping car*; others seek it for policy's sake, and yet others as a pass port to society. But to the member of the Young People's society Christianity means service for Christ, the result of which will be the *bringing of Christ as a Savior to the whole world*. This is the right view of Christianity. Yea, it is the Christian view of Christianity; it is Christ's own view. "I am among you as one that serveth," Christ says, and again He says, "I am come not to do my own will but the will of Him that sent me." And before His death He said to his disciples (and to each one of us thro them), "As my Father hath sent me into the world even so send I you into the world." Christ came that he might serve. This was his mission

upon earth. How well He did it His own life attests. But He placed our mission on a parallel with His. No one else would have ever placed it there. Therefore we are responsible to Him if we do not do as He did. He served man and therefore we must serve man. It is said of David that he served his own generation by the will of God. It is yet God's will as manifested in Christ that we should serve our own generation. Are we attempting to do it? Where do we stand in God's sight? What do we weigh in God's balances? Would not God say of us as was said of Belteshazzar, *Weighed but found wanting*.

Because of the various and unchristian conceptions of Christianity the church had lost sight of the *element of service*. The members of the church were neither taught nor trained for service. There was not, until within recent years, a place and a field provided for training and work in the church. The Young People's society is the church in training. It has the proper conception of Christianity and is preparing to embody the conception. And who can measure the results? No wonder that the best men of Christendom are giving their support to the movement! No wonder that the movement has grown so rapidly!

The Young People's society has been to the church what Dr. Schleiermann was to the classics and Prof. Sayce to the Old Testament scriptures. Each of these men has been of incalculable worth in the field in which each labored. The study of Homer always interesting has been made doubly so by the discoveries and decipherments of Dr. Schleiermann and Prof. Sayce by similar work has thrown much light upon difficult and hitherto dark passages of the Old Testament, and has made impossible and absurd such lectures and books as "The Mistakes of Moses."

But the Young People's society has not only to a very great extent, brought to light the element of Christian service, but it has brought this element into prominence by its great achievements and growth. The whole church has been quickened and made more active since the birth of the society. Giving for church extension and support is becoming more systematic, which fact is very hopeful to missionaries. Our giving must become systematic and not spasmodic. At one penny per day from each member the Brethren church could give \$50,000 each year for missions, whereas we are giving next to nothing. The Young People's society is doing much to make giving systematic. The members of the "Tenth Legion" (those that give one tenth of income) already number twelve thousand. I wonder how many in the Brethren church do as well? But we are working toward that end. We believe, as young people that we must serve with all we have, talents and substance as well. And when the whole church shall have been brought to this conception of Christianity and each member serve according to what he has, the Brethren church will not only be